

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Secretary, FCC
Rm 222



Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554
October 29, 1998

In Reply Refer to
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Mr. Michael C. McCarty
5926 Flannigan Court
Galloway, Ohio 43119-9333

Dear Mr. McCarty:

Thank you for your recent letter to Chairman Kennard urging the Commission to issue a Notice of Proposed Rule Making to amend the Amateur Radio Service rules by restructuring them, particularly with respect to changing the number of classes of operator licenses and the code speed requirement. Your letter has been referred to me because the Amateur Radio Service is regulated by the Public Safety and Private Wireless Division of the Federal Communications Commission.

Recently the Commission adopted the *Notice of Proposed Rule Making (Notice)* in WT Docket No. 98-143, 1998 Biennial Regulatory Review -- Amendment of Part 97 of the Commission's Amateur Service Rules. The *Notice* which was released on August 10, 1998, sought comments on a number of different issues, including whether there should be any changes to the Morse code examination elements presently required to qualify for the different classes of amateur operator licenses and whether there should be a reduction in the number of classes of operator licenses. Comments on these issues and other issues raised in the *Notice* will be accepted until December 1, 1998, and reply comments will be accepted until January 15, 1999. For your convenience and information, copies of the *Notice* and an *Errata* thereto are enclosed. They can also be downloaded from the amateur service web page located at <http://www.fcc.gov/wtb/amateur/>. In addition, your letter to Chairman Kennard will also be included in the record of the aforementioned docket proceeding.

While I cannot prejudge the outcome of this proceeding, I can assure you that the Commission will fully consider the views expressed by all interested parties before reaching a final decision in this proceeding.

I trust that this is responsive to your inquiry.

Sincerely,

D'wana R. Terry
Chief, Public Safety and Private Wireless Division
Wireless Telecommunications Bureau

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Enclosures

Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street
Washington, D.C. 20554

980359

08/07/1998

Re: Amateur Radio Service License Restructuring

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Your Commission has a proposal from the ARRL and one from No Code International before it on this subject. I am aware of their contents. After careful consideration of these, I urge the Commission to issue its NPRM containing No Code International's proposal.

A three-class structure provides advancement incentive and would represent a savings in time, paperwork, and money to the Commission. The single 5 wpm code test requirement to obtain either of the two higher licenses is all that's necessary to meet the requirements of the International Treaty. The removal of higher-speed code testing from the licensing procedure puts the emphasis purely on technical and rules knowledge, as it should be. Higher-speed code proficiency would then be placed in the venue of a personal achievement, which is where it belongs. Testing and certificates would be handled by the ARRL or another Amateur organization just like the DXCC or WAS. This is where it should be as I have suggested to the ARRL in the past.

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I will state that a minority have stated they will quit Amateur Radio if the ARRL proposal becomes a rules reality. They surely will if NCI's would. However, their numbers are small compared to the overall licensee total and actually would represent a positive progression of the Amateur Service. From what I've heard on the air and witnessed in Amateur Radio gatherings, this highly-vocal minority are the ones who have spread class bigotry. Their bidge, based upon high-speed code knowledge they have and insist all should, has caused damage to individuals as all bigotry does. This usually, but not exclusively, has been directed at the "No Code" Technician License holders. By these usually Extra Class Licensed bigots leaving the Service, they will be doing a great service to the future of Amateur Radio.

Overall, adoption of the No Code International proposal as the FCC's NPRM toward adoption in the rules would represent a necessary and progressive step for the future of the Amateur Radio Service. Your serious consideration of this is greatly appreciated. Lastly, I am not a member of either organization.

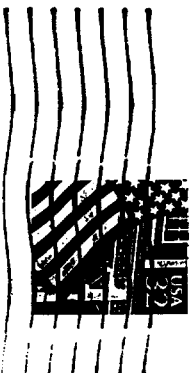
Sincerely:

Michael C. McCarty, WI4NDS

5926 Flannigan Court, Galloway, Ohio 43119-9333

Mr. McCarty
5946 Flamingo Ct.
Columbus, OH 43119

Mr. William E. Kennard
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street
Washington, D.C. 20554



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